

## **FEMA REGION 6 SPOT REPORT #8**

Updates in RED

**SPOT REPORT:** Explosion at West Fertilizer Plant (West, Texas)

**DATE AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE:** April 17, 2013 at approximately 19:50 CDT

**INCIDENT SUMMARY:** An explosion was caused by a fire at the West Fertilizer Plant in West, TX (McLennan County, 19 miles north of Waco- Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/rKk1u>):

- Unconfirmed reports fatalities unconfirmed injuries reported; some people still missing
- Reports of 75-100 homes/businesses destroyed
- Due to health and safety concerns, evacuation of a significant portion of the community was conducted.
- Oncor Electric was impacted by the explosion and many customers are unable to receive power because damage to Oncor facilities. The utility provider has had staff on-site since last night, and is working closely with local emergency management officials.
- National Infrastructure Coordination Center (NICC) reports the public water system is offline due to damaged water lines around the site of the explosion. A boil-water service will be issued when service is restored.
- Local media has reported that Connally ISD (south of West ISD) is making plans to provide facilities, transportation, nutrition and other necessities for West ISD so students can resume classes as soon as possible. Other school districts are combining supplies, furniture, personnel and other needs to West ISD students. Plans are still in progress at this time.

### **ESF 6 Report:**

- One American Red Cross (ARC) partner shelter is currently open at the Latham Springs Baptist Camp in Aquilla. (no population over night).
  - One independent shelter is currently open in West. (no population over night)
- Texas Salvation Army: Continues to provide five (5) feeding canteens for West.
- American Red Cross has four (4) ERVs and three (3) chapter vehicles providing canteen services within West.

### **Concerns:**

- Potential weather information and on any conditions that could affect operations (i.e. wind shifts).

**SIGNIFICANCE OF  
EVENT:**

High

**SOURCE OF  
INFORMATION:**

FEMA R6 Logistics and Operations, Department of Health and Human Services, FEMA Region 6 JRMPO Rep, State of Texas Operations Center SOC), FEMA R6 National Preparedness Law Enforcement Liaison, FEMA R6 External Affairs

**ACTIONS/  
FOLLOW UP:**

**State Actions:**

- **State will be requesting an Emergency Declaration for Cat B to include DFA and will potentially follow up with a request for IA PDAs once they complete the local disaster assessments.**
- Governor Perry issued a Disaster Proclamation for McLennan County
- The SOC is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in support of the Fertilizer Plant Explosion.
- **State Fire Marshall's Office (SFMO):** is the lead investigation agency for Texas; SFMO staff is on-site and partnering with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to conduct a joint investigation of the incident.
- **Texas Department of Insurance (TDI):** The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) is providing assistance through the SFMO, its Consumer Protection resources, and the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) to assist those affected by the incident.
- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ is providing air monitoring and technical assistance. A strike team and mobile command post were deployed to the scene.
- **Texas Military Forces (TXMF):** 6<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) resources have been deployed to West Middle School to assist with chemical substance detection.
  - The TXMF Homeland Response Force (HRF) that was placed on standby has been released.
- **Disaster District (DDC) Waco:** The DDC is fully activated, identifying needed resources and providing coordination of state resources assigned to the DDC. DDC Waco will conduct 24-hour operations through the night, and into the next operational period.
- **Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):** The DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) has been activated. DSHS has deployed a Texas Funeral Director Association (TFDA) Strike Team with two Mortuary Trailers. One portable morgue unit was staged in Waco, and is expected to be deactivated.
- **Texas Task Force 1 & 2 (TTF1 and TTF2):** TTF1 Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Type I Team to include Damage Assessment Personnel for collapse structure

assessment have been deployed. A Search and Rescue K-9 Team has also been deployed. TTF2 Type III Search and Rescue Task Force have also been deployed. SAR personnel are conducting primary and secondary searches in the affected area.

- **Communication Coordination Group (CCG):** AT&T to provide cellular on wheels (COW) to provide additional cellular communications capability.
- **Civil Air Patrol (CAP):** Aerial photography in support of Search and Rescue.

**Federal Actions:**

- FEMA Regional Administrator in communication with Chief of Texas Division of Emergency Management
- FEMA Regional Administrator and EPA Regional Administrator are in communication.
- The National Response Team (NRT) of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, a National Criminal Enforcement Response Team (NCERT) and a criminal investigative team from the EPA will be deploying to support the investigation of the explosion of the fertilizer plant.
- EPA has their EOC activated and has personnel on-site.
  - Currently conducting air monitoring
  - Once search and rescue efforts are completed, EPA will be prepared to conduct hazardous materials removals and ensure the area is safe (when approved).
- FEMA R6 RRCC has activated to Level 3 (hours of operation 0700 to 1900 CDT); FEMA R6 MOC will assume situational awareness from 1900 CDT today.
  - Operations, Logistics, Planning, Individual Assistance, External Affairs, American Red Cross in the RRCC until 1900 CDT today.
  - FEMA R6 Recovery has 3 (three) IA PDA teams on standby and are coordinating with SBA
  - FEMA R6 Recovery has identified PA PDA teams, if requested
  - IMAT 2 on stand-by to deploy if requested by the state
  - Pre-designated Federal Coordinating Officer identified.
- Distribution Center Ft. Worth current Readiness:
  - Water (liters): 3,124,890
  - Commercial Meals (ea): 659,458
  - Reduced Sodium Meals (ea): 869,224
  - Infant Toddler Kits (ea): 0
  - Hygiene/Comfort Kits (ea): 50,000
  - Cots (ea): 31,836
  - Blankets (ea): 208,492
  - Consumable Medical Supplies (ea): 2
  - Durable Medical Equipment (ea): 4
  - Tarps (20'x25'): 135,080
  - Generators (ea): 101

**PREPARED BY:**

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